



CONGRESSIONAL  
ANTI-BULLYING  
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## **Bullying: Framework of Federal Efforts & Current Legislation**

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Available online at  
[Honda.house.gov/antibullying](http://Honda.house.gov/antibullying)

## Introduction

Bullying in the United States has been brought into the national dialogue due largely to mass media attention including coverage of bullying behavior in our schools, communities, and online, as well as major motion pictures such as the 2012 documentary *Bully* (directed by Lee Hirsch).<sup>1</sup> This interest has led to increased legislative attention in the United States Congress, as well as increased resources dedicated toward bullying prevention and intervention in federal Departments. The federal government mostly addresses bullying through the United States Departments of Justice, Education, and Health & Human Services, while Defense, Agriculture, and Interior also serve as part of the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Steering Committee.<sup>2</sup> Officials from these agencies have launched two prominent websites that serve as a central resource for bullying prevention: **stopbullying.gov** and **findyouthinfo.gov**.

**Table 1. Prominent Government Offices with Bullying Related Programs**

Department of Justice	Department of Education	Health and Human Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Juvenile Accountability Block Grants</li><li>• Office of Violence Against Women (Supporting Teens through Education and Protection)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Office for Safe and Drug Free Schools</li><li>• Office for Civil Rights</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)</li><li>• Substance Abuse &amp; Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)</li></ul>

Legislation on the topic in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress has addressed bullying in four major areas:

1. Raising awareness;
2. Transferring resources to subnational governments;
3. Developing systems for data collection; and
4. Requiring subnational jurisdictions to address bullying.

Legislation relating to grant programs and data collection often aims to expand existing programs so that their purview explicitly includes “bullying.” Some of the most high profile legislation (Safe Schools Improvement Act), however, would create new systems for addressing bullying.

This report outlines the legislative success seen by bullying efforts at a federal level and describes the federal framework of efforts created by these statutes. It goes on to describe current efforts during the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress and those Members most active on the issue of bullying. Lastly, it provides a federal legislative history on the topic of bullying.

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<sup>1</sup> This film was originally released in a limited capacity in 2011. An edited version was released nationwide in April 2012.

<sup>2</sup> The White House Press release, “President and First Lady Call For a United Effort to Address Bullying,” (March 10, 2011). Available online at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

## **Federal Framework to Address Bullying & Legislative Successes**

***VAWA Reauthorization and Department of Justice:*** Although a total of 23 bills explicitly relating to “bullying” that have been introduced in the last 11 years, only one has been signed into law: the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 3402) introduced by James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and enacted January 5, 2006 (P.L. 109-162). This VAWA reauthorization included two relevant provisions –

- A section known as the Supporting Teens through Education and Protection (STEP) Act of 2005 that authorized the Office on Violence Against Women to make grants to middle schools and high schools for them to address – among other items – bullying;<sup>3</sup> and
- A provision which authorized Juvenile Accountability Block Grants to states to “establish and maintain accountability-based programs that are designed to enhance school safety, which programs may include research-based bullying, cyber bullying, and gang prevention programs;”<sup>4</sup>

In addition to this major legislative success, three bills with explicit references to “bullying” have passed one chamber.

***VAWA Reauthorization and Department of Justice:*** In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2004 through 2006 (H.R. 3606) was introduced by James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and included a provision to authorize Juvenile Accountability Block Grants to states for research-based bullying prevention programs.<sup>5</sup> Although this attempt was unsuccessful, this program was successfully authorized the following session of Congress in the VAWA reauthorization discussed above.

***H. Res. 762 (110<sup>th</sup> Congress):*** In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 762, introduced by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, which expressed support for the goals of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week. This resolution passed with 375 Members voting in support, 56 Members not voting, and one Member voting present.<sup>6</sup>

***S. Res. 310 (112<sup>th</sup> Congress):*** A resolution authored by Sen. Barbara Mikuski commemorating the Girl Scouts and also notes the positive impacts that the group has in teaching girls about bullying passed the Senate on March, 12, 2012. It was passed by unanimous consent.

***Safe and Drug Free Schools and Department of Education:*** Lastly, although the term “bullying” only appears explicitly in the United States code where it was added by P.L. 109-162, it is important to note that *violence prevention and intervention in schools* has also been addressed by Congress. This is mostly seen in large-scale education reauthorizations and specific bills relating to the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act. Last reauthorized by No Child Left

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<sup>3</sup> 42 § 1404c-3(i)(4)

<sup>4</sup> 42 § 3796ee(b)(13)

<sup>5</sup> H.R. 3035 Sec. 255

<sup>6</sup> Roll Call vote #985 (October 22, 2007, 7:18PM)

Behind (P.L. 107-110), the Department of Education provides financial assistance to states and local education agencies (LEAs) for violence prevention programs.

## **Current Efforts in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress**

In the current Congress, 31 bills (19 in the House of Representatives and 12 in the Senate) relating to bullying in schools have been introduced to date. These bills have addressed bullying in four major areas:

1. Requiring jurisdictions to address bullying;
2. Developing systems for data collection;
3. Transferring resources to subnational governments; and
4. Raising awareness.

## ***Requirements for Federal Government and Subnational Jurisdictions***

The most prescriptive of legislative approaches places requirements on federal, state, and local governments to address bullying.

**H.R. 998/S. 555 - Student Non-Discrimination Act of 2011** (Rep. Jared Polis, D-CO and Senator Al Franken, D-MN). This legislation would establish a federal prohibition against discrimination and harassment in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Schools would be required to take proactive steps to prevent discrimination and harassment as well as address discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity that occurs in public schools. The House bill currently has 158 cosponsors (157 Democrats and 1 Republican, Ros-Lehtinen), and the Senate current has 39 cosponsors (37 Democrats and 2 Independents).

**H.R. 1648/S. 506\* – Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2011** (Representative Linda Sanchez, D-CA and Senator Bob Casey, D-PA). This legislation would require action on bullying on a local, state, and federal level. LEAs would be required to include prohibitions on bullying in their discipline policies, monitor measures of performance on bullying, and establish grievance procedures for students, parents, and educators. LEAs would also be required to notify parents, students, and educators of their bullying prohibition policies, grievance procedures, and numerical assessments of bullying behavior in their schools. States would be required to collect information on bullying in schools and communities, conduct a needs assessment for bullying prevention programs, and provide technical assistance to LEAs in bullying prevention. At a federal level, the Secretary of Education would be required to issue a biennial evaluation of bullying prevention programs, and the Commissioner for Education Statistics would collect data to determine the incidence and prevalence of bullying in schools. \*These bills are also cross-listed in the section below relating to data collection.

## ***Transferring Resources to Subnational Governments***

**H.R. 83 – Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2011** (Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-TX). This legislation would reauthorize Juvenile Accountability Block Grants adding a purpose

area for bullying prevention and intervention, and would require the Attorney General to establish voluntary guidelines for States and local governments for identifying bullying, participation in bullying prevention programs, and establish baseline characteristics of bullying prevention and intervention programs. It currently has 64 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**H.R. 975\* – Anti-Bullying and Harassment Act of 2011** (Rep. Danny Davis, D-IL). This legislation would require states to use safe and drug free schools funds to collect and report information in the incidence of bullying and harassment, and require LEAs to use subgrants to prevent and respond to bullying. It currently has 12 cosponsors (11 Democrats and 1 Republican, Representative John Shimkus). \*This bill is also cross-listed in the section below relating to data collection.

**H.R. 2437 – Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning Act of 2011** (Rep. Judy Biggert, R-IL). This legislation would expand availability of programs that teach social and emotional learning (SEL) skills. This includes prevention of problem behaviors such as bullying. It currently has 18 cosponsors (14 Democrats and 4 Republicans).

**H.R. 3324 – Real Education for Healthy Youth Act of 2011** (Rep. Barbara Lee, D-CA). This legislation provides for “comprehensive” sex education classes that include information relating dating violence and bullying. It currently has 61 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**H.R. 3821 – After School for America's Children Act of 2012** (Rep. Dale Kildee, D-MI). This legislation would provide for social and emotional learning (SEL) programs, including programs relating to bullying prevention. It currently has 13 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**H.R. 5770 – Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act** (Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-TX). This legislation would reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program to also include educational efforts aimed at students, adults, and law enforcement officials about identifying bullying and intervention and prevention techniques. It currently has 3 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**H.R. 6019 – Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2012** (Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-TX). This legislation would reauthorize Juvenile Accountability Block Grants to include bullying prevention and intervention. Very similar to H.R. 5770, it authorizes fewer funds. It currently has 10 cosponsors (9 Democrats and 1 Republican, Lamar Smith). It passed the House Judiciary Committee by voice vote on June 28, 2012.

**S. 919 – Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students Act of 2011** (Sen. Tom Harkin, D-IA). This legislation authorizes successful, safe, and healthy students’ state grants to foster positive conditions for learning in public schools including bullying prevention. It currently has 3 cosponsors (2 Democrats and 1 Independent).

**S. 1306 – Secondary School Reform Act of 2011** (Sen. Kay Hagan, D-NC). This legislation creates a grant program where high-need school districts partner with external organizations to compete for funds to implement effective secondary school reforms. In applications for these

funds schools must report rates of school violence, harassment, and bullying. It currently has 3 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**S. 1311 – Improving Student Achievement and Engagement through Expanded Learning Time Act of 2011** (Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-VT). This legislation would assist LEAs, nonprofits, and nonprofits in developing and implementing 21<sup>st</sup> century community learning centers, which includes programs relating to bullying prevention. It currently has 3 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**S. 1495 – Early Intervention for Graduation Success Authorization Act of 2011** (Sen. Lisa Murkowski). This legislation would authorize competitive grants to states and school districts with the lowest graduation rates to fund dropout prevention activities. It allows LEAs that receive sub-grants to institute community integration and support services, which can include anti-bully programs. It currently has 1 cosponsor (Mark Begich, D-AK).

**S. 1569 – Empowering Local Educational Decisionmaking Act of 2011**(Sen. Richard Burr, R-NC). This legislation is largely aimed at decentralizing education jurisdiction;<sup>7</sup> however, it would also provide funding to states to prevent and reduce school violence and bullying during and after the school day.<sup>8</sup> It currently has 6 cosponsors (all Republicans: Alexander, Crapo, Isakson, Roberts, Rubio, and Wicker).

**S. 1782 – Real Education for Healthy Youth Act of 2011** (Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ). This legislation provides for “comprehensive” sex education classes that include information relating dating violence and bullying. It currently has 6 cosponsors (all Democrats).

### *Developing Systems for Data Collection*

**H.R. 975\* – Anti-Bullying and Harassment Act of 2011** (Rep. Danny Davis, D-IL). This legislation would require states to use safe and drug free schools funds to collect and report information in the incidence of bullying and harassment, and require LEAs to use subgrants to prevent and respond to bullying. It currently has 12 cosponsors (11 Democrats and 1 Republican, Representative John Shimkus). \*This bill is also cross-listed in the section above relating to resources for subnational governments.

**H.R. 1648\* – Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2011\*** (Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-CA). This legislation would require action on bullying from the Secretary of Education, the States, and LEAs. *Relating to data collection*, it would require states to collect and report information on bullying in schools and communities, and require the U.S. Department of Education’s Commissioner for Education Statistics to determine the incidence and prevalence of bullying in elementary and secondary schools. It currently has 161 cosponsors (157 Democrats and 5 Republicans, Representatives Michael Grimm, Richard Hanna, Todd Platts, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen,

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<sup>7</sup> Senator Burr press release, “Senator Burr Introduces Bill to Improve Education by Empowering Local Communities,” (September 16, 2011). Available online at [burr.senate.gov](http://burr.senate.gov)

<sup>8</sup> H.R. 1569, Title IV, Sec. 4101.

and Don Young). \*This bill is also cross-listed in the section above relating to requirements for subnational jurisdictions. For a full description of this bill, please see the section above.

**S. 506\*** – **Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2011\*** (Senator Bob Casey, D-PA). This is the Senate companion to H.R. 1648 with no substantive differences on the legislation. It currently has 41 cosponsors (38 Democrats, 2 Independents, and 1 Republican, Senator Mark Kirk). \*This bill is also cross listed in the section below relating to requirements for subnational jurisdictions.

### ***Raising Awareness***

**H. Con. Res. 40** – Supporting the goals and ideas of the National Day of Silence in bringing attention to anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender name-calling, bullying, and harassment faced by individuals in schools (Rep. Eliot Engel, D-NY). This legislation emphasizes the bullying endured by members of the LGBT community. It currently has 46 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**H. Res. 87** – Supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (Rep. John Lewis, D-GA). This resolution is focused on teen dating violence but also notes the potential connection between this type of violence and bullying. This legislation has 9 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**H. Res. 371** – Expressing support for designation of a ‘Hear My Cry Day’ in schools across the United States (Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-FL). This legislation makes particular emphasis of peer-to-peer education in stopping bullying.

**H. Res. 446** – Supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month and raising awareness and enhancing the state of cyber security in the United States (Rep. James Langevin, D-RI). This legislation notes the new high-tech challenges presented by cyber-bullying. It currently has 12 cosponsors (8 Democrats and 4 Republicans).

**H. Res. 460** – Expressing support for designation of 2012 as the "Year of the Girl" and celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA (Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-FL). This legislation notes the positive impacts that the Girl Scouts have in teaching girls about relationship skills, including bullying. It currently has 95 cosponsors (79 Democrats and 16 Republicans).

**H. Res. 694** – Recognizing the 40th anniversary of title IX, the Federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education, including high school and college sports and other activities (Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-NY). This legislation notes that Title IX also includes protections from gender-based bullying and harassment in schools. It currently has 19 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**H. Res. 698** – Recognizing the significance of the 30th anniversary of Vincent Chin's death (Rep. Judy Chu, D-CA). This legislation notes the murder of Vincent Chin and its relevance in addressing ongoing challenges of hate crimes, xenophobia, and bullying. It currently has 12 cosponsors (all Democrats).

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***Report from the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus***  
***Representative Michael Honda, Chair***

**H.R. 1448 – Federal Response to Eliminate Eating Disorders Act of 2011** (Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-WI). This legislation would require the National Institute of Mental Health to conduct public service announcements to educate the public on discrimination and bullying based on body size. It also requires the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the impact of body mass index measurements taken at school on the incidence of teasing or bullying based on body size. It currently has 25 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**H.R. 2689 – SAFE Teen Act** (Rep. Gwen Moore, D-WI). This legislation would expand availability of teen dating violence prevention. It also notes that bullying may be a future indicator of teen dating violence. It currently has 26 cosponsors (25 Democrats and 1 Republican, Reichert).

**H.R. 2816 – Promoting Health as Youth Skills In Classrooms And Life Act** (Rep. Marcia Fudge, D-OH). This legislation creates an Office of Safe and Healthy Students within the Department of Education. Among the many duties delineated to this office, the Director of the office would promote education activities to prevent bullying.

**S. Res. 310** – Expressing support for designation of 2012 as the "Year of the Girl" and celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA (Sen. Barbara Mikuski, D-MD). This legislation notes the positive impacts that the Girl Scouts have in teaching girls about relationship skills, including bullying. It currently has 23 cosponsors (12 Democrats, 10 Republicans, and 1 Independent). It passed the Senate on March 12, 2012.

**S. 392 – Promoting Health as Youth Skills In Classrooms And Life Act** (Sen. Tom Udall, D-NM). This legislation creates an Office of Safe and Healthy Students within the Department of Education. Among the many duties delineated to this office, the Director of the office would promote education activities to prevent bullying. It currently has 2 cosponsors (both Democrats).

**S. 481 – Federal Response to Eliminate Eating Disorders Act** (Sen. Tom Harkin, D-IA). This legislation would authorize Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to administer grants to prevent eating disorders, including prevention of bullying based on body size, shape, and weight. It currently has 9 cosponsors (all Democrats).

**S. 1447 – SAFE Teen Act** (Sen. Mike Crapo, R-ID). This legislation would expand availability of teen dating violence prevention. It also notes that bullying may be a future indicator of teen dating violence. It currently has 3 cosponsors (2 Democrats and 1 Independent).

### **Most Active Members of Congress on Bullying (112<sup>th</sup> Congress)**

A review of cosponsorship patterns of pending legislation and Anti-Bullying Caucus membership shows that involvement in bullying tends to fall along party lines, obviously with some notable exceptions.

**Table 2. Representatives Supporting Anti-Bullying Legislation (112<sup>th</sup> Congress)**

	Caucus Membership		HR- 83	HR- 975	HR- 998	HR- 1448	HR- 1648	HR- 2437	HR- 2689	HR- 2816	HR- 3324	HR- 3821	HR- 5770	H. Con. Res. 40	H. Res. 87	H. Res. 371	H. Res. 446	H. Res. 460	H. Res. 694	H. Res. 698
Baca, Joe	X	X		X		X				X										X
Baldwin, Tammy				X	Δ	X				X										X
Capps, Lois	X	X		X		X								X				X	X	
Carnahan, Russ	X	X		X		X				X								X	X	
Chu, Judy	X			X		X		X		X			X							X
Cicilline, David	X	X		X		X		X					X			X	X			
Clarke, Yvette D.		X	X	X		X				X					X	X	X			
Clay Jr., William "Lacy"		X	X	X		X				X	X						X			
Cohen, Steve	X	X		X		X				X								X		
Connolly, Gerald E. "Gerry"				X	X	X						X		X			X			
Conyers Jr., John	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X									X
Davis, Danny K.		X	Δ	X			X	X										X		
DeGette, Diana		X		X	X	X				X				X						
DeLauro, Rosa L.		X		X		X				X	X							X		
Ellison, Keith	X	X		X	X	X								X						
Filner, Bob				X		X		X		X				X						X
Green, Al		X		X		X								X	X			X		
Grijalva, Raul	X			X		X	X	X		X				X				X		
Hahn, Janice	X	X		X		X						X	X				X	X		
Hastings, Alcee L.	X			X	X	X				X				X	X			X		
Honda, Mike	Δ		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X				X	X	X
Jackson Lee, Sheila	X	Δ	X	X		X		X		X	X	Δ	Δ					X		
Johnson, Eddie Bernice		X		X		X		X					X					X	X	
Kucinich, Dennis J.		X		X		X		X		X	X			X						
Lee, Barbara	X	X	X	X		X				Δ				X				X	X	X
Lewis, John		X		X		X		X		X		X	X	X	Δ			X		
Loebsack, David	X			X	X	X	X							X						
Lowe, Nita				X	X	X				X	X							X		
Maloney, Carolyn				X	X	X	X			X				X				X	Δ	
McCollum, Betty	X			X		X				X				X	X			X	X	X
McGovern, James		X		X		X				X				X	X			X	X	
Moore, Gwen		X		X		X		Δ		X	X			X				X	X	
Moran, James		X		X	X	X				X				X				X		
Nadler, Jerrold				X	X	X				X				X				X		
Norton, Eleanor Holmes	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
Polis, Jared	X	X		Δ	X	X	X							X				X		
Rangel, Charles B.	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X				X		
Reyes, Silvestre	X	X		X		X							X					X		
Richardson, Laura	X	X		X		X		X					X	X		X		X	X	X
Roybal-Allard, Lucille	X	X		X		X				X								X		
Sablan, Gregorio	X	X		X		X												X		X
Sanchez, Linda	X			X		Δ		X						X						
Schakowsky, Jan			X	X	X	X		X						X				X	X	
Scott, Robert C.	X			X		X				X								X		X
Smith, Adam			X	X		X				X				X				X		
Speier, Jackie		X		X		X		X		X						X	X			
Stark, Fortney Pete	X			X		X		X		X				X	X					
Towns, Edolphus	X	X		X		X		X		X										X
Wasserman Schultz, Debbie	X	X		X		X				X				X	X			Δ		
Waters, Maxine	X			X		X		X		X								X		
Wilson, Frederica	X	X		X		X									Δ			X	X	
Woolsey, Lynn	X	X		X		X				X	X			X				X	X	

Δ Indicates an original sponsor.

\*\*Table is abridged to only include Members who are the most active supporters of bills pertaining to bullying.

**Table 3. Senators Supporting Anti-Bullying Legislation (112<sup>th</sup> Congress)**

	S. 392	S. 481	S. 506	S. 555	S. 919	S. 1311	S. 1306	S. 1447	S. 1495	S. 1569	S. 1782	S. Res. 310
Akaka, Daniel			X	X						X	X	
Begich, Mark			X	X				X				
Bennet, Michael			X	X	X							
Bingaman, Jeff	X		X	X	X							
Blumenthal, Richard			X	X						X		
Boxer, Barnara			X	X								X
Brown, Sherrod			X	X								X
<b>Burr, Richard</b>									Δ		X	
Cantwell, Maria			X	X								
Cardin, Benjamin			X	X								
Casey, Robert			Δ	X			X					
Conrad, Kent			X									X
Coons, Christopher			X	X								X
<b>Crapo, Mike</b>							Δ		X			X
Durbin, Richard			X	X						X		
Feinstein, Dianne			X	X								X
Franken, Al		X	X	Δ							X	
Gillibrand, Kirsten		X	X	X	X							
Hagan, Kay			X	X	X	Δ						
Harkin, Tom		Δ	X	X	Δ							
Inouye, Daniel			X	X								
Johnson, Tim			X	X								X
Kerry, John		X	X	X						X		
Klobuchar, Amy		X	X	X								X
Kohl, Herb		X	X	X		X						
Lautenberg, Frank		X	X	X							Δ	
Leahy, Patrick		X	X	X								
Levin, Carl				X								X
Lieberman, Joseph			X	X			X					
Menendez, Robert		X	X	X						X	X	
Merkley, Jeff			X	X								
Mikulski, Barbara			X	X								Δ
<b>Murkowski, Lisa</b>								Δ				X
Murray, Patty			X	X	X	X						
Reed, Jack			X	X								
Sanders, Bernard			X	X	X	Δ						X
Schumer, Charles		X	X	X								
Shahenn, Jeanne			X	X								X
Stabenow, Debbie			X	X								
Udall, Mark	X		X	X								
Udall, Tom	Δ		X	X								
Whitehouse, Sheldon			X	X		X	X					
Wyden, Ron			X	X								

Δ Indicates an original sponsor.

\*\*Table is abridged to only include Senators who are the most active supporters of bills pertaining to bullying.

## **Legislative History of Major Bullying-Related Legislation**

A review of past sessions of Congress shows that legislation pertaining specifically to “bullying” dates back only as far as the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. A comprehensive listing of these 15 bills is below.

### *107<sup>th</sup> Congress*

**H.R. 4774 – School Safety and Violence Prevention Act** (Rep. James Maloney, D-CT). This legislation requires the Secretary of Education to make grants available for anti-bullying education, counseling, and mentoring & peer-programs. It also requires states to create a database for tracking bullying incidents, a hotline for reporting incidents, and an emergency plan when an emergency school-related incident occurs.

### *108<sup>th</sup> Congress*

**H.R. 2651 – School Safety and Violence Prevention Act** (Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-CA). This legislation requires the Secretary of Education to make grants available for anti-bullying education, counseling, and mentoring & peer-programs. It also requires state-wide measures to create a database to compile incidents, a hotline for reporting incidents, and an emergency plan when an incident occurs.

**H.R. 3606 – Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2004-2006** (Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-WI). This legislation is outlined above in “Legislative Successes” on page 3.

**H.R. 4776 – To amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to include bullying and harassment prevention programs** (Rep. John Shimkus, R-IL). This legislation would amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to require these programs to include bullying prevention. Very similar legislation is currently led by Representative Danny Davis in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**H.Res. 363 – Recognizing the achievements of SUPERB** (Students United with Parent and Educators to Resolve Bullying) and its founders Jeremy and Sharon Ring to address the growing problem of bullying in the Nation’s Schools (Rep. Robert Wexler, D-FL).

### *109<sup>th</sup> Congress*

**H.R. 284 – To amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to include bullying and harassment prevention programs** (Rep. John Shimkus, R-IL). This legislation would amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to require these programs to include bullying prevention. Very similar legislation is currently led by Representative Danny Davis in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**H.R. 3402 – Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005** (Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-WI). The only legislation to become public law. Described above in “Legislative Successes” on page 3.

*110<sup>th</sup> Congress*

**H.R. 3438 – Bullying and Gang Reduction for Improvement Education Act** (Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-CA). This legislation would add bullying and gang prevention to the activities current supported under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities program.

**H. Res. 762 – Supporting the Goals of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week** (Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-NY)

**H. Con. Res. 328** – Supporting the goals and ideals of the National Day of Silence in brining attention to anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender name-calling, bullying, and harassment faced by individuals in schools (Rep. Eliot Engel, D-NY)

*111<sup>th</sup> Congress*

**H.R. 2262 – Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2009** (Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-CA). This legislation would require action on bullying on a local and state level. LEAs would be required to use subgrants for bullying prevention and response, and establish grievance procedures for students, parents, and educators. States would be required to collect information on bullying in schools and communities.

**H.R. 5184** – To amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to include bullying and harassment prevention programs (Rep. Danny Davis, D-IL). This legislation is very similar to Rep. Linda Sanchez’s Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2009, but differs in how it defines “harassment,” “bullying,” “cyberbullying,” and other terms. Similarly, it would require action on bullying on a local and state level. LEAs would be required to use subgrants for bullying prevention and response, and establish grievance procedures for students, parents, and educators. States would be required to collect information on bullying in schools and communities.

**H.R. 6362 – Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act** (Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-NY). This legislation would require states to allow a student who is attending a public school that does not have a safe climate for academic achievement, or who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense while on school grounds, at a school event, or on a school bus to transfer to a safe public school within the school district. TI also sets forth requirements for data collection, services available to violent offenders, priority funding for unsafe schools.

**H.R. 6542 – Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act** (Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-TX). This legislation would allow the use of Juvenile Accountability Block Grants for bullying prevention and intervention. It also requires the Attorney General to establish voluntary guidelines for use by subnational governments to developing bullying prevention and intervention programs.

**H. Con. Res. 52 – Honoring and remembering the life of Lawrence “Larry” King** (Rep. Lois Capps, D-CA). This legislation commemorates Lawrence King, a 15-year old boy from Oxnard

California who was killed during a school shooting on February 12, 2008. It encourages efforts to prevent bullying and harassment.

**S. 3739 – Safe Schools Improvement Act** (Sen. Bob Casey, D-PA). This legislation is the Senate-side version of HR 2262, described above. It would require action on bullying on a local and state level. LEAs would be required to use subgrants for bullying prevention and response, and establish grievance procedures for students, parents, and educators. States would be required to collect information on bullying in schools and communities.

## **The Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus**

In April 2012, Representative Michael Honda formed the Anti-Bullying Caucus. Membership as of July 11, 2012 is listed below.

### *Rep. Michael Honda, Chair (D-CA)*

Rep. Charles Bass (R-NH)	Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU)
Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA)	Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO)
Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)	Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)
Rep. Hansen Clarke (D-MI)	Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)
Rep. John Conyers (D-MI)	Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA)
Rep. Robert Dold (R-IL)	Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)
Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)	Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-AZ)	Rep. Janice Hahn (D-CA)
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)	Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY)
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)	Rep. Kathleen Hochul (D-NY)
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)	Rep. William Keating (D-MA)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)	Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ)
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ)	Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)
Rep. Gary Peters (D-MI)	Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO)
Rep. Nick Rahall, II (D-WV)	Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-TX)
Rep. Laura Richardson (D-CA)	Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Rep. Lucille Roybal Allard (D-CA)	Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP)
Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)	Rep. Robert Scott (D-VA)
Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA)	Rep. Ed Towns (D-NY)
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)	Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Rep. Melvin Watt (D-NC)	Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA)
Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL)	Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)

## **Information and Acknowledgements**

For more information about this report and the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus, please contact Fayzan Gowani with the Office of Representative Michael Honda at (202) 225-2631.

Original and thorough research for this report was conducted by Anirudh Sreekrishnan.